



News Release

WISCONSIN ARMY AND AIR NATIONAL GUARD

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Guard welcomes home 229th Engineer Company rear detachment

Twenty members of the "rear detachment" of the Wisconsin Army National Guard's 229th Engineer Company, Prairie du Chien and Platteville, are scheduled to be back in Wisconsin today [April 16] after serving more than ten months in Iraq. These soldiers volunteered to stay behind to get the unit's equipment to a Kuwait seaport after about 145 of the 229th's soldiers returned from Southwest Asia two weeks ago.

The unit's 165 soldiers were ordered to active duty in early February 2003 and deployed to Southwest Asia at the end of May. Two members of the unit volunteered to travel with the unit's equipment aboard a cargo ship, and their return date is not yet known.

The returning soldiers will arrive at the La Crosse airport aboard commercial flights at 11:17 a.m.; 12:09 p.m. and 5:17 p.m. today [April 16].

They will be met by senior National Guard officials, family and friends. Following an initial airport reunion with their families the soldiers will travel to nearby Fort McCoy to begin about five days of demobilization processing.

The Wisconsin Guard still has about 750 soldiers and airmen on active duty. Of those, 380 are deployed overseas.

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Note to Editors and News Directors: News media are welcome to cover the return of the 229th Engineer Company rear detachment at the La Crosse airport Friday, April 16. News organizations will be subject to normal airport security restrictions.

Following each aircraft's arrival, soldiers and their families will have about an hour together before the soldiers are bused to Fort McCoy to begin demobilization processing. It is not yet known when they will return to their hometown armories before being released from active duty.

News media organizations wishing to cover the arrival should call Capt. Jackie Guthrie 608-242-3053) so arrangements can be made.

AIRCRAFT ARRIVAL TIMES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE. ADDITIONAL CHANGES ARE POSSIBLE.

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